

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/618,114

Examiner

John Pezzlo

Applicant(s)

MALALUR, GOVIND

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final amendment filed 26 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26, 28-33 (renumbered 2-4, 1, 6, 5, 7-21, 23, 24, 22, 25-29 respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 July 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

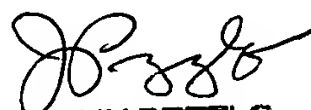
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26, and 28-33 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant has claimed the following uniquely distinct features in the instant invention, which are not found in the prior art, either singularly or in combination.

1. Regarding claim 5 - A method of constructing an address lookup table in system memory for a network switch said method comprising the steps of: snooping a communication channel in a network switch for lookup table information: upon detection of lookup table information on said communication channel, transmitting the lookup table information to a remote system memory, thereby constructing a lookup table in the remote system memory, wherein said lookup table information synchronizes a plurality of address lookup tables within the network switch, and wherein transmitting of the lookup table information to the remote system memory synchronizes the lookup table in the remote system memory with the plurality of address tables.
2. Regarding claim 8 - A method of performing lookups on a network switch said method comprising the steps of: providing at least one lookup table on a network switch, providing a communication channel in the network switch, said communication channel communicating

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lookup information to the lookup table, snooping the communication channel for lookup table information being communicated thereupon, transmitting said lookup table information to a remote system memory, said lookup table information creating a duplicate address lookup table in the remote system memory, accessing the remote system memory via a CPU to search for selected address information, wherein said step of snooping the communication channel comprises a step of passively observing the communication channel, and detecting and transmitting only predetermined message types from the communication channel to the remote system memory.

3. Regarding claim 10 - A method of processing packets in a network switch, said method comprising the steps of: inserting a stack-specific tag into a packet, processing the packet in a stack of network switches in accordance with tag information in the stack-specific tag, and removing the stack-specific tag from the packet, constructing a lookup table for the network switch in a system memory, said method of constructing the lookup table comprising the steps of snooping a communication channel in a network switch of said stack of network switches, for lookup table information being communicated thereupon, and upon detection of lookup table information on said communication channel, transmitting the lookup table information to a remote system memory, thereby constructing a lookup table in the remote system memory.

4. Regarding claim 28 - A network switch said network switch comprising: at least one lookup table therein, said lookup table being constructed based upon lookup messages transmitted over an internal communication channel, a tag insertion unit for inserting a stack-specific tag into a packet, a processing unit for processing the packet in a stack of network switches in accordance with tag information in the stack-specific tag a removing unit for

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removing the stack-specific tag from the packet when the packet is being switched to a destination port, and snoop logic connected to a remote system memory, said snoop logic also being connected to the internal communication channel to detect lookup table information being transmitted on said channel and transmit said lookup table information to said remote system memory, wherein said snoop logic creates a duplicate lookup table in said remote system memory, for direct memory access by a remote CPU, and wherein said stack-specific tag inserted by said insertion unit includes information relating to at least one of stack count, trunk group information, and mirroring information.

The closest prior art, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Claims 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26, and 28-33 being allowable, **Prosecution On The Merits Is Closed** in this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Pezzlo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou, can be reached on (571) 272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C.

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306

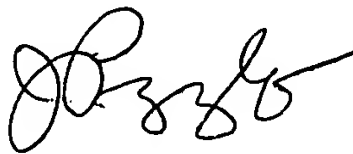
For informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

Jefferson Building
500 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA.

John Pezzlo

8 November 2004



JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER